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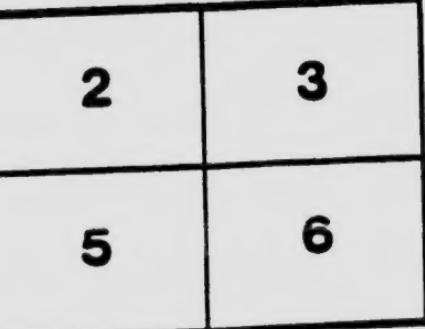
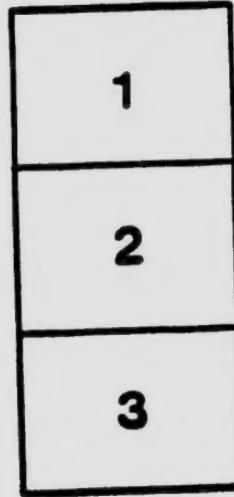
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# TRINIDAD and BRITISH GUIANA



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# TRINIDAD

## Its Discovery

Columbus when on a voyage of discovery was on the eve of disaster. His stores were rotting in the hold, his sailors were mutinous, while he himself prostrated with fever and gout. His three vessels were on the brink of destruction. In distress, the courageous navigator registered a vow that the first land discovered would be dedicated to the ever blessed and adorable Trinity. In such straits we can imagine the glad cry from the mast top, at midday on the 31st of July 1498, that land was in sight, and the further joy when they perceived the three Mountain peaks, now known as the three sisters on the Southern range, and the yet further discovery that the three were one at the base—an emblem of the blessed Trinity to whom already the land had been dedicated. Hence the name Trinidad.

Thus was discovered one of the most beautiful islands on the Western Hemisphere—indeed, one of the most beautiful in the world. It was then as now a land of stately palms and luxuriant fruits, of streams and villages and scattered habitations, and with a climate soft and pure—one of the most inviting spots in the entire

tropical zone. Trinidad fell first into the hands of the Spaniard, then became a French possession and finally was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802.



Catechists' Thatched Hut

### Population and Industries.

The entire population is 333,000, of whom 120,000 are East Indians. There are less than 5,000 whites, and the remainder are blacks of different degrees of colour. The mixture of races has in many cases obliterated lines of racial demarcation. After his emancipation from slavery, the negro could not be relied upon for labour. Hence the importation of the East Indian under an indenture system to work in the cocoa and sugar-cane plantations, which are the two great industries of the Island.

Excellent roads wind amongst the hills and valleys, and the Indians are distributed in colonies upon the plantations, according to the convenience of labour.

### The First Missionary.

It was the presence of this Indian community that led Dr. John Morton, over fifty years ago, to urge the Canadian Church to establish a Mission in Trinidad, and afterwards, when the call came, to accept an appointment as the first missionary. The presence of a small section, so detached from the great mass of heathenism in India, and so easily accessible, seemed too good an opportunity to lose for their own sake, as well as for the reflex influence upon the three hundred millions of their own people in the homeland. The 20,000 of those days have multiplied by natural increase and by importation to the 120,000 of to-day, and the



Cane Workers in San Fernando

success of the mission has amply justified the undertaking.

### An Educational Mission.

It is usually known as an educational mission and naturally so, because its activities are so largely educational altho, not exclusively, for evangelism has its place. The Government has expended freely in providing schools, which are divided into two classes (1) Government Schools which are entirely supported and controlled by the Government as our public schools are in Canada. No religion is taught in these schools. (2) Assisted Schools, which are also supported by the Government, but controlled by the Churches. Our Presbyterian Mission has seventy of these schools in its care. The missionaries appoint the teachers and regularly inspect the schools, care for the property, and see that they are in all respects kept up to Government standards. For such service, the Mission enjoys the privilege of teaching the Bible the first hour of each day. There are thus about 14,000 children in our Presbyterian schools in Trinidad under daily Christian instruction

### A Training and Model School.

In order to provide teachers, competent to teach the Bible, there is a Training or Model School, where teachers are prepared for their work. The effort is to so equip them intellectually and spiritually as to make the day schools effective missionary

agencies. As our efforts are directed to the Indian population, these teachers are as far as possible Indians, who have the advantage of speaking the Hindu language, and can interpret the Bible to the children in their own tongue.



Our Mission at Essequebo

### Napa ima College.

This is a High School, taking its name from the geographical district in which San Fernando stands. It prepares students for matriculation in Cambridge University with which it is affiliated. It has a good record. Some of its students graduated with distinction in the Homeland and it may naturally be expected that out of the 14,000 children now in the public schools others will succeed to an honorable career. It is the natural outlet for such an educational system as a small island can provide.

## **Work for Women.**

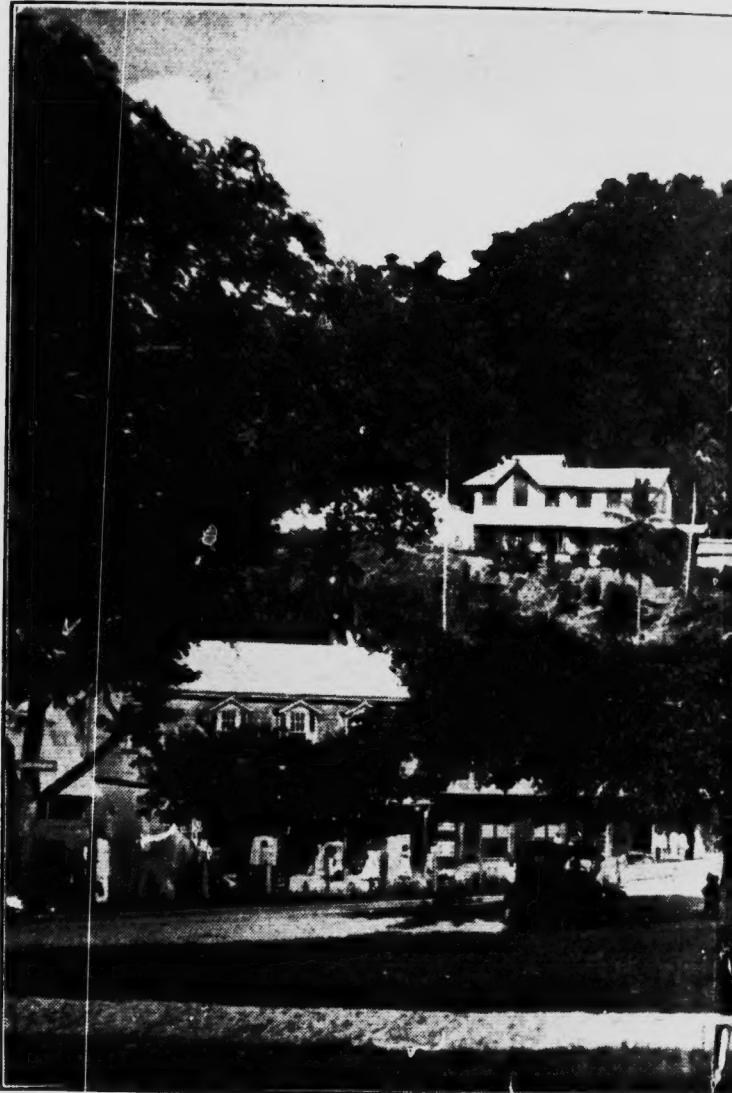
Educational Work for girls has not kept pace with work for boys. The East Indian is only coming to value the education of girls. At present in a public school of 130 pupils there may be eight or ten girls. yet even that number shows the possibilities and that there are no insuperable barriers. National customs will yield to Christian effort.

At Princetown is a small girls boarding school the Iere School organized by Miss Archibald, with 38 pupils.

On a beautiful elevated site at San Fernando known as La Pique, a boarding school for girls was erected, which when completed will accommodate 75 pupils. In it the more advanced girls are being taught including High School work, whilst the Iere School at Princetown is still continued for the younger children. Thus little by little will be raised a generation of educated young women, who as teachers and Bible women, and wives will introduce higher ideals into the Indian home life.

## **The Theological College.**

All educational work looks towards evangelism. Every school house is used as a Church on Sunday. There are besides many Church buildings so that in all there are ninety-five preaching places where services are conducted every Lord's Day by our missionaries and their helpers.



**Naparima Girls' High School, on**

Many of the teachers who were taught in the Training School are able to conduct Sunday services. But in order to provide an adequate Ministry, a Theological Col-



School, on hillside, Princetown, Trinidad

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lege was established at San Fernando, the educational centre of the Mission. A large number of men have passed through the College who labour as Catechists and



**Sarah Morton Dormitory, Princetown, Trinidad**

seven graduates have been ordained to the Gospel ministry. Of the entire Indian population but a fraction has yet been reached so that there is much room for expansion in to the regions beyond.

At regular intervals all teachers, and all preachers are called together in separate classes for post-graduate work, in order to prevent sagging.

### **The Staff.**

The territory cultivated is divided into four districts or parishes, known as the Tunapuna, the Couva, the San Fernando and Princetown fields. The entire work is included within these fields, which should be sub-divided, being too large to be properly covered from these centres, by so small a staff. New centres should also be opened, for there is much territory yet unoccupied.

# BRITISH GUIANA

## Its Geographical Features

Like Trinidad, British Guiana has passed through a succession of hands—Spaniards, Dutch, French, finally becoming an English possession in 1803. Geographically it is as different from Trinidad as well can be. It is a larger colony on the north shore of South America, 270 miles from east to west, 540 miles deep on the western side, 300 miles deep on the eastern side and backing up against Brazil. It consists of three belts, the first low-lying, swampy land, reaching back from the sea from ten to forty miles. The next is a broader belt of slightly undulating land, rising 50 to 180 feet above the sea. The third belt rises into a hilly or mountainous region, the highest being 1200 to 2000 feet. In that region on the Potaro, one of the tributaries of the Essequibo River, is the Kaiteur Falls, 740 feet high, the highest in the world and nearly five times as high as the Niagara Falls, although not so great a volume of water.

The rivers of British Guiana are remarkable for their size. The Essequibo, the Demerara, the Berbice, and the Courantyne, are all mighty streams and it is between and along these our mission work lies. The Essequibo has a sea-reach of 35 miles, is 640 miles long and drains 40,000 square miles. It is largest of the four, and next to it in size is the Courantyne on the east,

the boundary between British and Dutch Guiana.

### A Land of Villages.

A good road runs along the sea front from the Pomeroon River, about 30 miles west of the Essequibo to the Courantyne on the east, a distance of about 170 miles, and along it the population lies—a succession of 214 villages like beads on a string, with some communities inland on the banks of the rivers. Our own mission extends along this road for 160 miles. The sugar plantations lie in the low-lying belt beside the sea. In the entire colony there are 57,770,000 acres of arable land of which only 2,000,000 acres are in private hands, the rest being unalienated crown lands. In the lowlands where this road is and where the estates are, and which are accessible by river and railway, there are 10,880,550 acres of which 7,000,000 are fit for cultivation, while only 1,000,000 have been disposed of by the Government. Yet the entire population of the colony is only 300,000, and of these 135,000 are East Indians, imported for labour on the plantations. The East Indians live in the villages amongst the negroes along this central road.

### The Missions and the Schools.

The method of mission work is practically the same as in Trinidad, with the difference that there are no strictly Government schools. All are "Assisted Schools,"—230

in number under denominational control, having privileges of religious instruction, whilst supported by the Government. Missions have the privilege of opening new schools at points not within three miles of any existing school, but at their own expense. Later if successful, such Mission Schools may be accepted by the Government as Assisted Schools. We have 25 schools, only ten of which receive Government grant.

Our Mission was late on the field, so that the schools before our advent fell into the hands of other Churches. Our Mission, however, as in Trinidad, concentrates on the East Indian population, and has in the 135,000 an important field for cultivation. Many of these Indians become independent farmers and will undoubtedly be the strongest and most influential element in the future population.

The evangelistic part of the mission is also conducted upon the same lines as in Trinidad. The school house is the Church, and in addition there are a few other places where religious services are conducted, where there is no school. In some cases services are conducted in buildings belonging to the Scotch Mission.

### Educational Facilities.

There are 32 catechists engaged in this evangelistic work who are good men, but of course, of very limited attainments. They have in the past been coming together on Friday for Bible study and preparation for the following Lord's Day services.

New a Training School and a High School have been established for more thorough education.

Indian students are in danger of losing touch when away from home and acquiring the English language. They soon come to regard themselves as English and forget their own language and people. For these reasons, it was found necessary to establish these schools for the supply of teachers and evangelists, as well as the general uplift of the community.

### The Need of the Women.

From year to year, an appeal has come for the appointment of one or two ladies who would begin at the beginning and gradually work up a Boarding School for girls, as they have in Trinidad. But none have offered so far. It is felt in all Missions that for satisfactory results the work in behalf of girls must keep pace with the work for boys. A lady missionary would find access to the homes and introduce the leaven of the Gospel where it will be most effective and where the male missionary is excluded.

The present missionary staff is composed of Rev. R. Gibson and Miss Fisher at Suddie, on the Essequibo in the West; Rev. J. B. Cropper on the Demerara, in the centre; Rev. J. B. Scrimgeour in New Amsterdam in the East, and Rev. G. W. Irvine, associated with Mr. Scrimgeour in New Amsterdam in evangelistic and educational work.

Appended are some of the immediate needs in these two important mission fields of our Church.

### The Forward Movement Program for Trinidad:—

Financial Agent and Superintendent of Buildings.  
One new missionary for Tuna Puna Field.

One new missionary to prevent vacancies during urloughs.

Two new missionaries for educational work.

Two additional Lady Missionaries for educational and evangelistic work.

Increased numbers of trained East India pastors, catchists and teachers.

#### Buildings:

Four houses with land for new missionaries	\$18,000
Ten New School Buildings.....	16,000
Ten Homes for Catechists.....	10,000
Ten Homes for Teachers.....	10,000
Church Building, Tuna Puna.....	3,500
Two Small Churches in Couva Field.....	2,500

In addition to this, there will be needed in the near future: Buildings for Naparima College and Girls' High School \$30,000.

Completion of Sarah Morton Dormitory at La Pique.....	8,000
New home for matron and teacher.....	4,000
Orphanage for Christian orphans.....	3,000

#### Opportunities for Investment in Trinidad:—

- \$1,000 Will provide a house for a teacher or catechist.
- 500 Will add a new wing to a School.
- 1,600 Will erect a new school building which will also be used for Sunday School and preaching services in the district.
- 4,000 Will provide manse and ground for a new missionary.
- 3,000 Will provide building for Orphanage.
- 4,000 Will provide building for Girls' High School.
- 28,000 Will provide land and building complete for Naparima College.

## The Forward Movement Program for British Guiana:—

Two additional Field Missionaries.

One missionary for training of Catechists.

Two lady missionaries to begin special work among women and girls.

Increase of ordained and unordained native helpers.

### Buildings:

Three residences for missionaries.....	\$12,000
One residence for ordained native.....	1,200
Twelve residences for unordained natives...	6,000
Two Intermediate School Buildings.....	3,000
Ten Primary Schools and Mission Premises	7,000
Berbice High School.....	2,000
Dormitory for catechists in training.....	1,000
Institute for Woman's Work.....	2,500

## Opportunities for Investment in British Guiana:—

- \$ 500 Will provide a home for an unordained native agent.
- 700 Will erect a primary school building which will also be used for Sunday School and preaching services.
- 1,200 Will provide home for ordained Native Pastor.
- 1,500 Will erect building for intermediate school.
- 1,000 Will provide dormitory for catechists in training.
- 2,500 Will provide an institution for the beginning of work among girls and the training of Bible women.
- 2,000 - 6,000 Will provide a home for a Canadian missionary.



